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Letter dated 14 August 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to resolution 1291 (2000) of 24 February 2000, by which the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) until 31 August 2000. The Council also requested me to provide a report to the Council every 60 days on the implementation of that resolution.

My next report to the Council would therefore be due by 24 August and would contain recommendations on the status of MONUC in the light of the situation as it has developed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These developments have regularly been brought to the attention of the Council by my previous reports and through informal briefings.

Members of the Security Council are therefore aware of the adverse climate which has so far prevented the deployment of MONUC in accordance with the Council's resolutions. The situation is characterized by persistent large-scale fighting in many parts of the country, severe restrictions imposed by the Government and other parties on the Mission's freedom of movement, the refusal of the Government to permit the deployment of United Nations armed troops in accordance with the decisions of the Council and my Special Representative and, not least, by a sustained campaign of vilification conducted against MONUC and individual members of its staff, which has created significant risks to their security.

The Lusaka peace process is therefore currently undergoing an extremely challenging phase, which requires substantial reevaluation not only on the part of its signatories, but also of the United Nations. In particular, the role MONUC can play under current circumstances remains unclear. At the same time, there have been major developments whose implications should be fully studied and taken into consideration before I submit my recommendations to the Security Council. These include the summit meeting to be convened today in Lusaka by President Frederick Chiluba with the participation of the signatories of the Lusaka Peace Agreement Accord, and the statement by the Government of Rwanda concerning the disengagement of its forces in Kasai.

In order to allow sufficient time to assess the impact of these important developments and to formulate my recommendations accordingly, I would like to request that the Security Council consider an interim extension of the mandate of MONUC for one month, until 30 September 2000.

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I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**